

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/360,951

Claim 7. (Amended) The composition of claim 6, wherein the colored oligomer comprises approximately 0.1 to 60 weight percent of the composition.

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Comp. Claim 8. (Amended) The composition of claim 6, wherein the composition further comprises an aliphatic urethane acrylate component.

Claim 9. (Amended) The composition of claim 8, wherein the composition further comprises a reactive diluent component.

Claim 10. (Amended) The composition of claim 9, wherein the reactive diluent component comprises up to 30 weight percent of the composition.

Claim 11. (Amended) The composition of claim 8, wherein the composition further comprises a photo-initiator.

Claim 12. (Amended) The composition of claim 11, wherein the photo-initiator comprises up to 10 weight percent of the composition.

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner withdraws from consideration Claims 13-24 and 28-31 as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Applicant hereby cancels Claims 13-24 and 28-31, without prejudice to the filing of a Divisional Application with respect thereto. Further, Applicant hereby amends Claims 1-12 to more clearly recite the invention of interest.

Also, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-12 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Petisce in view of Szum et al.

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Specifically, the Examiner states that Petisce teaches a telecommunications element comprising an optical fiber (20) having a core and a cladding and a radiation cured polymeric coating having an identifying color, wherein the identifying color in the polymeric coating is provided by at least one chromophore molecule, wherein the coating includes a diluent and a photo-initiator. Further, the Examiner states that Petisce teaches a plurality of optical fibers in an array to form a fiber ribbon.

The Examiner notes that Petisce does not teach the chromophore molecule being covalently bonded to such a coating. However, the Examiner states that Szum et al teaches molecules being covalently bonded to such a coating. Hence, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to covalently bond a chromophore molecule to the polymeric coating for the reasons taught by Szum et al, i.e., to prevent the molecule from being extracted or volatilized from the cured coating without breaking the covalent bonds (see column 23 thereof).

For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

Szum et al merely teaches a slip agent coupled to a composite oligomer which is covalently linked within a radiation curable coating. Thus, Szum et al relates to a slip agent, not a coloring agent, much less a chromophore molecule, as claimed in the present invention. A slip agent is in no way an equivalent to a coloring agent, much less a chromophore molecule. In view of the lack of equivalency, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Szum et al with respect to a slip agent with the teachings of

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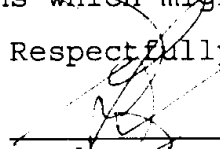
Petisce with respect to a chromophore molecule to achieve the present invention. Indeed, such a combination can only be made with impermissible hindsight.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is not taught or suggested in Petisce or Szum et al, and that the combination thereof can only be made in hindsight, which is legally improper. Thus, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection.

In view of the amendments to Claims 1-12, and the arguments as set forth above, reexamination, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number on any questions which might arise.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 13-24 and 28-31 are being cancelled.

Claims 1-12 are amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A telecommunication element [having a color identifying coating thereon, the telecommunication element] comprising[:]

an elongated communication transmission medium at least partially coated with a colored, [; and

a] radiation cured polymeric coating, wherein said polymeric coating is obtained by a process comprising radiation curing a composition comprising a radiation curable oligomer, [coating having an identifying color applied on at least a portion of the transmission medium,] wherein said oligomer has [the identifying color in the polymeric coating is provided by] at least one chromophore molecule covalently [bonded] bound thereto,

whereby said chromophore molecule provides an identifying color to said medium.

Claim 2. (Amended) The [communications] telecommunication element of claim 1, wherein the elongated communication transmission medium is an optical fiber having a core and a cladding surrounding the core.

Claim 3. (Amended) The [communications] telecommunication element of claim 1, wherein the elongated communication transmission medium is an optical fiber having a core, a cladding surrounding the core and a polymeric coating on the cladding.

Claim 4. (Amended) The [communications] telecommunication element of claim 1, wherein the elongated communication transmission medium is an optical fiber having a core, a cladding surrounding the core, an inner polymeric coating on the cladding and an outer polymeric coating on the inner polymeric coating.

Claim 5. (Amended) The [communications] telecommunication element of claim 1, wherein the elongated communication transmission medium is a plurality of optical fibers arranged in an array.

Claim 6. (Amended) A colored, radiation curable coating composition [for providing a telecommunication element with a color identifying polymeric coating having chromophore molecules covalently bonded thereto, the coating composition] comprising[:]

a radiation curable oligomer which forms [composition capable of forming] a polymer upon radiation curing [polymeric coating; and

a colored oligomer having chromophore molecules covalently bonded thereto and], wherein [the colored oligomer is capable of covalent bonding with the radiation curable composition] said oligomer has at least one chromophore molecule covalently bound thereto.

Claim 7. (Amended) The composition of claim 6, wherein the colored oligomer comprises approximately 0.1 to 60 weight percent of the [colored coating] composition.

Claim 8. (Amended) The [coating] composition of claim 6, wherein the [radiation curable] composition [includes] further comprises an aliphatic urethane acrylate component.

Claim 9. (Amended) The [coating] composition of claim 8, wherein the [radiation curable] composition further [includes] comprises a reactive diluent component.

Claim 10. (Amended) The [coating] composition of claim 9, wherein the reactive diluent component comprises up to 30 weight percent of the [radiation curable] composition.

Claim 11. (Amended) The [coating] composition of claim 8, wherein the [radiation curable] composition further [includes] comprises a photo-initiator.

Claim 12. (Amended) The [coating] composition of claim 11, wherein the photo-initiator comprises up to 10 weight percent of the [radiation curable] composition.